

hospitals and wherever any pestilence raged, and into many foreign countries. This order, one of the most fruitful the Church ever saw, was begun by its founders with not an idea of what they were about to undertake; for they were but tools in His hand, "Who giveth the increase."

REV. DR. CAHILL

ON THE PARDON OF THE REMAINING IRISH EXILES OF '48 NOW IN AMERICA.

Waterford, April 22, 1857. Few persons have followed the diplomatic career, or exposed the disastrous policy of Lord Palmerston on the European Continent, with more laborious and successful examination than the humble individual who writes the present article. It is not my intention here to charge his lordship, or his relative, Lord Minto, on his various agents at the different Courts with encouraging the sanguinary revolutions of France, Rome, Hungary, or Switzerland. The history of the siege of Rome, of the Swiss mercenary civil war, of the subjugation of the Hungarian patriots, and the final repression of the Lombardo-Venetian revolutionists, are all well known familiar topics of public discussion during the last ten years. The public European mind was moved to frenzy; thrones were menaced; old dynasties tottered, and a social tempest evoked from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, which shook the foundations of old monarchy to the very centre. There can be no doubt that Lord Palmerston held friendly intercourse with the principal conspirators in all these terrific confederacies. He wrote private letters to some, sent his accredited Envoys to others; he received and presented addresses in common with revolutionary leaders; and he seemed to lend his official sanction to the universal struggle on the Continent between monarchy and popular resistance. There can be no doubt at all that Lord Palmerston did advocate in several countries round us the very same political course for which the Irish exiles have been found guilty. Popular resistance to establish laws, in order to attain what they considered "popular liberty," was the crime of all the Continental revolutionists; and this is the indictment charged to Mr. Smith O'Brien and his associates. If Lord Palmerston, therefore, was avowedly the friend of Kosuth and his class, he cannot consistently be the enemy of Thomas Francis Meagher and his companions; and if he advocated a confederacy on the Continent, which he once called "a progressive movement," he cannot, in his own internal sympathies, be hostile to the motives which originated the Irish organization. The cases are precisely the same. There is not one man in the British Empire, therefore, whose duty it would be to defend the Irish exiles more than Lord Palmerston; their defence by him, is the plausible justification of his own conduct in Hungary and Rome; their condemnation by him, is the inevitable, the transparent verdict against the honesty and the faith of his own past policy. I have said thus much, in order to prove that the present Premier ought to be the last man in the councils of her British Majesty to advise the permanent punishment of our political convicts; on the contrary, in the defence of his own admitted diplomacy, he ought to be the first man to present a petition at the foot of the throne praying the royal clemency to efface their sentence and terminate their captivity.

Besides every one knows the difference between the Irish bloodless attempt at revolution, and the profuse effusion of blood on the Continent; from the assassination of Count Bethani by the Hungarians to the death of Rossi in Rome, it is one thrilling scene of murders, trials, executions; while in Ireland, there is not one drop of blood to stain the brief of the advocate, who rises up in the strong, legitimate, anticipated hope, of having these young men restored to the bosoms of their families, and to the privileges and liberties of their country. Ireland is grateful for the favors already conferred upon some few of the exiles; the whole people of every class, station, and creed have expressed their deep sense of heartfelt acknowledgment for this boon of Queenly pardon; and the same public expression shall be doubled and trebled, when her Majesty shall have completed the full; and the desired, the consistent measure of royal bounty, in the remission of the entire sentence of the remaining few beyond the Atlantic.

As I shall take the liberty to enclose these my observations to the Premier himself. I would beg to remind him that at public dinners, in his place in Parliament, at scientific reunions and at public lectures, he has continually charged Austria, Rome and Naples with cruelty in not granting a general Amnesty to their political offenders. I have, therefore, all these speeches and accusations as my indefensible evidence, while I call on Lord Palmerston to stand forth in the same cause, for the same Amnesty towards the individuals in whose defence I shelter myself under the advocacy of his lordship.

If he demand an Amnesty in one case, it is both inconsistent and illogical not to insist on it in the other. In this effort to procure in Ireland what he has required in Naples and Austria, he will be supported by his own telling orations: he will be defending his consistency, his honor, his faith, his past conduct: and he will have, in support of his views, the same public requisition which was presented to him in the case of Wm. Smith O'Brien, with the highest Naval, Military, official array of signatures, together with the most distinguished names of the various classes, of all creeds and politics in Ireland. If one class has been released it would be illogical and unjust to withhold Amnesty from the remainder; this would be admitting a principle, and rejecting a legitimate corollary; it would be defending the premises and opposing the conclusion. Lord Palmerston is now in the plenitude of a power which few Ministers of England has ever possessed: and as he is so anxious to gratify the feelings of the English people and the Scotch people, I feel quite assured that if these views of mine were put forward by the united Irish press—if they were taken up by the Irish people, and adopted as the general Irish feeling, the Premier and the Cabinet would concede a similar favor to

what it has already granted, and do justice to the sequence of a principle, which it has already admitted. With great timidity, therefore, but with strong hope, I would suggest to the Irish Press to take up this subject here mooted, and to aid, at this particular moment, our countrymen in recovering the full measure of their former liberty. There is one individual to whose heart this letter will speak with greater force and greater feeling than to any other—and he is the aged, honored father of Thomas Francis Meagher. I don't know whether I should venture to introduce his name without his permission; but at least I am at liberty to repeat the public sentiment in his regard—namely, that he retires from his Parliamentary career with a name distinguished for ardent enthusiasm in the interests of Ireland; with an official character collauded by universal consent for entire integrity; and if in his retirement and old age, his grey hairs were soled by the presence of a beloved and absent son, it would be on the part of Lord Palmerston a large favor to the Irish people, and a grateful tender compliment to private worth.

And Lord Palmerston is perfectly well acquainted that the Emperor Joseph has granted a full, unconditional amnesty to thousands of Revolutionists who appeared with arms in their hands, and who spilled the blood of the imperial troops: his Lordship also knows the hundreds who have been pardoned by the Emperor of the French: he must be aware too of the forgiveness extended by the Pope to the accomplices of the men who expelled him from his triple crown: and no one perhaps has a more accurate knowledge of the extended amnesty granted by the King of Naples to the very persons who set a price on his head, and published placards calling on their accomplices to assassinate the nobility and the clergy. We have, then, the precedent of Austria, of Rome, of France, and of Naples, for Lord Palmerston's guidance: and hence the English Press can never with truth charge the European Cabinets with cruelty towards their political offenders while hundreds and thousands of returned exiles attend the royal indulgence in each country; and, therefore, as a matter of course, if England holds the lash over about half a dozen bloodless offenders, while the Continental Potentates released thousands of avowed assassins, it must pass into a stereotyped fact of history, that England proclaims through her press the doctrine of liberty and toleration, while her convict-ships and penal settlements are constructed on the model of Siberian tyranny. I do feel convinced from various sources of information with which I happen to be supplied, that the views which I advocate are attainable by the least exertion on the part of the same class, who procured the remission of the sentence of Mr. Smith O'Brien and his companions.

Not the least ingredient in the success of this case is the happy event which has lately added new bliss to the family-circle of her Majesty the Queen: and in urging this auspicious fact in the present instance, I am but copying similar cases from the Courts of the two Emperors of France and Austria. The birth of a Princess at Vienna and of a Prince at the Tuileries was the prelude to an almost general amnesty in every part of these empires; and surely it cannot be imprudent or unconstitutional to follow on the part of the Queen of England, examples which do honor to the hearts and give stability to the thrones of the two Emperors of Austria and France.

D. W. C.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

One of the Belfast papers announces that Dr. Denis, Bishop of Down and Connor, has been summoned to Rome "on business of importance connected with his diocese," and that he is to take his departure in a few days for the Eternal City.

The sum of £400 has already been subscribed and placed in the bank towards the erection of a monument in Cork, to the memory of the late Father Mathew.

CATHOLIC MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—The following is a correct list of the Catholic members of the new Parliament. England returns only one; Ireland the remainder. The number is 35 in all:—

- Blake, J. A.; Waterford City.
Bowler, George; Dundalk.
Brady, John; Leitrim.
Burke, Sir Thomas; Galway County.
Castlerosse, Rt. Hon. Viscount; Kerry.
Cogan, W. H. F.; Kildare.
Corbally, M. E.; Meath.
Deasy, Richard, Q.C.; Cork County.
De Vere, S. E.; Limerick County.
Devereux, J. T.; Wexford Borough.
Dunne, Michael; Queen's County.
Ennis, John; Athlone.
Esmonde, John; Waterford County.
Fagan, William; Cork City.
Fitzgerald, Rt. Hon. J. D.; Ennis.
Grace, O. D. J.; Roscommon.
Henchey, D. O'Connor; Kildare.
Howard, Rt. Hon. Lord F. F.; Arundel.
Maguire, J. P.; Dungarvan.
McCann, James; Drogheda.
McCarthy, Alexander; Cork County.
McEvoy, Edward; Meath.
McMahon, Patrick; Wexford County.
Monsell, Rt. Hon. Wm.; Limerick County.
Moore, G. H.; Mayo.
O'Brien, Sir Timothy; Cashel.
O'Brien, Patrick; King's County.
O'Brien, James; Serjt.-at-law; Limerick City.
O'Connell, Daniel; Tralee.
O'Donoghue, Th.; Tipperary.
O'Flaherty, Anthony; Galway Borough.
Power, N. M.; Waterford County.
Somers, J. P.; Sligo Borough.
Sullivan, Michael; Kilkenny Borough.
Waldron, Laurence; Tipperary.

The Catholic Parliamentary Party has already been selected, enlisted, and marshalled, and is about once more to take the field respectable in numbers, if not formidable—strong in hope rather than elated and resolute against coming dangers, though not flushed with past successes. We shall be entitled to rejoice more heartily over the fruits of their labors if we abstain now from indulging in any boastful vaticinations. There are many things which it will be glorious for them to achieve; there are some in which it will be disgraceful to them to fail. They may succeed in passing many good laws, and redressing many crying evils, but, at any rate, they are bound not to fail in preserving their own character and their country's honour. In their preservation of their own character, the honour of the country is involved. When a representative of the people makes shipwreck of his reputation, violates his pledges, and betrays his trust, we share in the indignation felt by those whom he deceived; but even while sharing in their indignation, the doubt

arises, how came these people, after all, to put their trust in such a man? If ten such instances of treachery occur simultaneously, the doubt is multiplied tenfold; but when twenty or thirty men, whom the people have delighted to honor, when one-half or three-fourths of the whole number of those whom they selected as their worthiest, prove false, the theory is started, they would have known how to choose true men if they had themselves been true. But if, after a warning so striking, and a reason so enormous, as the history of the last Parliament records, the very people who had to vindicate their own character and right their own wrongs selected once more as their champions a crew of traitors, all complaint on their part would become ridiculous, and confirm suspicion instead of arousing sympathy. We have no anticipations of such a calamity, and we find an additional reason for confidence in the expectation that the people themselves will watch closely and with jealous heed the votes and conduct of their representatives. But it will not be enough to watch them closely; the Catholic Parliamentary Party of Independent Opposition must have support and co-operation from the country as well as vigilance. They must be cheered in their arduous path by the knowledge that their labors are appreciated, that they are well backed, and that the paucity of their numbers in the House of Commons is more than compensated for in public opinion by the strength of the millions whom they represent.—Tablet.

REPRESENTATION OF ENNIS.—The Limerick Observer gives currency to a piece of Four Courts gossip to the effect that the Irish Attorney-General will in a few days be promoted to a Chief Justiceship which, it is alleged, is about being vacated by its present possessor. The result of this shadowy rumour has been that a canvass of the constituency of Ennis has been actually set on foot, and it is added that Mr. John Hall, the ex-member for Carlow county, is a candidate for the representation.

A meeting of the Council of the Tenant League was held on Tuesday at Dublin, at which four members of Parliament were present, viz., Mr. Moore, Mr. McEvoy, Mr. P. O'Brien, and The O'Donoghue; fourteen Catholic Clergymen were also at the meeting, as well as the proprietors and editors of several journals and about fifteen other persons. The Chief subject of discussion was the advisability of rescinding a resolution adopted by the Committee of the League approving of Mr. Cantwell's conduct in reference to his opposition to Mr. Bowyer at the late Dundalk election. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Moore stated that it was believed that in the political conduct of the Freeman's Journal Mr. Cantwell was a sharer. Mr. Cantwell, "I believe that this, like other assertions with respect to me, is part of the cutthroat and assassin system which has been followed in this room." Mr. Cantwell continued to characterize the insinuation as "One of the cutthroat stabs that are constantly met with in the Council room;" and Dr. Grey also remarked, "This is part of an assassin system which has been carried on in this room." The discussion was warm, Mr. Dwyer being interrupted by Mr. Cantwell remarking, "Do have a little truth Mr. Dwyer. In the end you will find it useful." Ultimately a resolution was carried rescinding that passed by the committee. The debate upon this topic occupies no less a space in the Freeman's Journal than thirteen columns. The subscription announced amounted to the sum of £14 1s., of which £5 had been forwarded by a gentleman residing in London. Before the Council adjourned, Dr. Gray said, "It was only necessary to look at the minutes of the proceedings for some time past to see that it was impossible for the business to be done with a council such as the council meeting in Dublin was. For six years his experience of the matter was, that it was utterly impossible that the business of the League could go on effectively or satisfactorily without the attendance at the council meeting of guiding minds, and men of position, character, and respectability to give weight to the proceedings." (Hear, hear.)

THE IRISH POLITICAL EXILES.—Under this heading we had the following observations in the Dublin Freeman's Journal of the 25th of April:—"We are happy to learn that an active and united effort is about being made to press on the government the propriety of granting a general amnesty, which will allow the three gentlemen who were alone excluded from the recent pardon extended to their comrades to return to the home of their affections. We believe we may state that this generous movement has originated, if not with, at least in consequence of, the presence of Mr. Smith O'Brien amongst us. The cordial reception given to him by all classes of his fellow-countrymen, and the manifest enjoyment which he feels in once again treading his own land, have suggested the idea that the three Irishmen who are still debarred from that enjoyment, who were his friends and companions in the cause that led to their exile, ought to be permitted to participate in the same privileges which he now so wisely and prudently avails himself of. None of these gentlemen were in any respect more committed than Mr. O'Brien, and we believe we speak the sentiments of that gentleman when we say that he feels but one drawback to the pleasure which the amnesty has afforded him, and that is that his companions are not included. It is strange that Lord Palmerston, who is now advocating the general principle of an amnesty in all continental states for all political offences—who even went the length of threatening Naples with an English fleet for hesitating to act on this principle—should not see that example as an influencing motive is far higher than precept; and he ought to feel grateful to the gentleman who have originated the present movement for having pointed out to him so effectual a mode of enforcing his benevolent views on other European states as recommending to his own Sovereign to grant an unconditional amnesty to the three Irish exiles who are now enjoying the hospitality of the Great Republic."

Mr. Michael Barry, formerly of Cork, who has been appointed a puisne judge in Australia, is elected a member of the legislative council.

Mr. Cantwell has written a letter to the Freeman's Journal, threatening to bring an action for libel against the Proprietors of the Nation!

IMPROVEMENTS IN BELTRUBET.—This fine and flourishing town is now rapidly rising in importance, from the extensive improvements that are now carrying forward in it. The erection of a splendid Constabulary barrack and other various buildings are now in course of operation on the property of that excellent landlord, John Cumley, Esq. When finished, it will be a great acquisition to the part of the town where it is erected.—Anglo Celt.

A numerously attended and highly-influential meeting of the poor law guardians, representing a large number of the unions in Ireland, was held on the 30th ult., at the Commercial Buildings, Dublin, for the purpose of adopting measures to obtain a bill for the revision and reform of the poor laws. It was agreed that a petition to Parliament should be prepared, calling for a select committee to inquire into the several points of revision and reform suggested at the meeting, and that copies of the petition be sent for signature to the various unions throughout Ireland.—Freeman's Journal.

The Lord Chancellor gave judgment on the 29th April in the appeal from the decision of the Master of the Rolls, by which Mr. Vincent Scully was held liable as one of the contributors to the Tipperary Bank, notwithstanding the transfer of his shares to a third party. The Chancellor, after stating his reasons for dissenting from the decision of the Master of the Rolls, said he did not consider that Mr. Scully's name should have been placed on the list of contributors, and he would therefore vary the order of the Court below, and order it to be struck off.

The weather continues unfavourable, and complaints of the unusual backwardness of the season, the result of the unceasing rains for the whole of the last month, come for all quarters of the kingdom.—

The Belfast Mercantile Register thus reports of the northern districts:—"Serious apprehensions are beginning to be felt regarding the weather, which, with the exception of a few days during the week before last, has been unusually severe and wet. Our advices from various parts of the country lead to the conclusion that spring sowing, except in the southern parts of the united kingdom, is fully three weeks later than usual, and that, owing to this circumstance, much of the land intended for cereals will be turned into pasture. Potatoes will be very late in putting into the ground, which is a serious matter, as one chief cause of the arrest of the disease of late years has been their early planting. In some districts of the country sowing operations are later this season than they have been for the last 10 or 12 years.— Since yesterday the weather has been fine, but with a wintry temperature, and as yet there is little indication of any permanent improvement. Last night there was a sharp frost, with thick ice on the water in the morning, and there is every appearance of more tonight. Vegetation is in a forward state, but large districts of country are so situated that a week or two of fine weather is required to render the land fit for the reception of seed."

The account from the south, although bad enough, are not, upon the whole, as cheerless as the preceding. A Glonmel paper says:—"This has been the wettest April remembered for many years, as out of the 28 days that have elapsed it has rained on 26.— The agricultural operations throughout the country have been considerably retarded in consequence, and the sowing of oats and planting of potatoes are very backward. The young wheat crop looks healthy, although some parties think it has received too much moisture. Yesterday was a beautiful spring day, and was a busy one throughout the country; but this morning there was some rain, and the weather again looks unsettled."

A letter from Westmeath gives a most unsatisfactory report of the state of the crops in that county, and in the western province generally:—"For many years a spring equally backward to the present in all the agricultural departments has not been known.— Having had occasion during the last fortnight to travel through a very large portion of the country, I might venture to state that fully 50 per cent. of the land prepared for oats remains at the present date (April 27) without having received a single grain of seed; and as to the potato crop, the land, although exhibiting all the appearance of preparation, remains unplanted, owing to the extreme softness of the soil, which precludes the possibility of starting out manure. Having just returned from visiting a considerable portion of the county of Roscommon and a small portion of Longford, I must add that in the former county things are still worse; in fact, to use the words of an intelligent farmer,—"Such a state of things was never before known; every place is in floods; not the least thing doing; the chief portion of the oats is unown, and as for any other crops, they are and must be, as long as the present weather continues, neglected." My informant, in addition to the discouragements which he described, had just sustained the loss of several head of horned cattle by distemper which, I am sorry to say, is at present causing serious injury to many farmers, both in Roscommon and Westmeath. The prospect of fine weather just now appearing is, under such circumstances, most cheering, and no doubt farmers will avail themselves of it with all possible alacrity."

The laboring classes in Limerick were never in deeper distress than they are at this moment. The shipping interest, which in former years, at this season of the year, contributed to afford large numbers of them employment, just now gives them very little to occupy their time. Between railroad and steamships, the business heretofore done by the liners between the port and England, is sadly fallen off; and the Quay, which in other days, presented a busy and active scene at this time, are now well nigh deserted. Our shipping news counts but few arrivals and departures comparatively. Meantime the Emigration of the population is greater than we ever remember it. Crowds leave almost every morning, by train, en route to Liverpool, to take shipping for America, Canada or Australia. The scenes at parting are heart-rending; and the people who fly off from a land, which even the gleam of prosperity it enjoys, does not make them attached to, are only the forerunners of others, who are determined to follow them whenever they have the opportunity.—Limerick Reporter.

At the Limerick workhouse, on the 30th ult., the case of a pauper, whose conversation and learning denoted that he had seen better days, was brought before the board, and a lengthy discussion ensued upon it. It appeared from his statement that he was a teacher of music and singing, had been 43 years a master of a band, and director of music to King William IV., Queen Adelaide, and the King of the Belgians.

The Galway Vindicator states that the practice of exporting potatoes had led to serious demonstrations there, as well as in other parts of the kingdom. The price, it seems, of this general article of the diet of the poor has doubled, and the rates are now 3d per stone—a high figure in a remote country town. On the 2nd inst. 200 Claddagh men marched towards the docks and actually broke into the store of a dealer, but they retired without doing material damage. They subsequently attacked other stores, but were dispersed by the police.

A case which vividly illustrates the absolute need of a reform in the Irish land code, in order to make some approach towards bringing it into harmony with the theory of the constitution, was reported in the Cork Examiner last week as having been tried before the assistant-barrister at Macroom. A Mr. Bence Jones brought an ejectment against a tenant of his named Bateman to recover possession of ten acres of land, let from year to year at a rent of £15 10s.— The tenancy commenced in 1847, and it appeared that Bateman had been a good and improving tenant and, it was stated, had expended several hundreds of pounds in improvements, and nearly doubled the value of the holding during his tenancy. The Court, after hearing evidence of the facts, said, "This man appears to have been a very good tenant, but if Mr. Jones did not like it he was not bound to keep him." Well, why did Mr. Jones not like this very good tenant? The reason alleged, and not denied, is, that Bateman had exercised his constitutional right to vote in an election for guardians of the poor, and had given his support to a candidate who happened, for some cause or other, to be very obnoxious to Mr. Jones. It is only fair to say that the rebutting case as to the improvements was not gone into, the Court declaring that it was, in point of law, quite immaterial whether the tenant had or had not made improvements. Mr. Jones seems also to have had, or fancied he had, some special reasons for anger against his tenant, as his attorney spoke of "annoyance and insult" having been offered to him, not, however, by his tenant, but by the candidate for whom he voted.— Even if this were true, it could not justify so gross an infringement on the constitutional rights of a man who had so small and indirect a share in the office. At all events, the punishment seems grievously disproportionate to the crime.—Tablet.

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SOCIETY.—In reference to a recent article in the Times commenting upon the annual report of the above named society, the Northern Whig has the following remarks:—"From the first the great object of the society has been to show on its rolls a large number of Roman Catholic pupils, and during the last year it claims to have had 16,000 children of that faith in attendance at its schools. Now, considering that the national system is far superior to that afforded in those under the Church Education Society's academies, we are led to inquire what is the attraction in the latter which induces Roman Catholics to prefer them to the former? Why, the religious instruction they receive, answer the advocates of the society. And in what does that religious in-

struction consist? In learning the Church Catechism, and reading the authorized version of the Bible—in other words, instruction in the doctrines of the established church. Then, will the society be good enough to explain to us why it is that these children are Roman Catholics, who ought to be such ardent and enthusiastic disciples of the tenets of Protestantism? Do they profess true Evangelical faith during the six secular days of the week, and idleness and superstition on the seventh day? Or is it that, not being quite certain as to whether Protestantism or Roman Catholicism is the right religion, they want to cheat the devil, and make sure of Heaven, by adhering to both creeds at the same time? If they are real Protestants, then the society is guilty of a deception. If, however, they attend the schools, and still remain Roman Catholics, surely that is an awkward fact for a body whose cardinal doctrine is, that the 'free and unfettered use of the Scriptures' inevitably converts the Roman Catholic to Protestantism. We invite the friends of the society to consider whether they do not prove too much when they make a parade of mythical thousands of Roman Catholic scholars. We do not believe in all Ireland it has, the whole year round, 5,000 bona fide Roman Catholic scholars. We know that in several districts Roman Catholic parents send their children to its schools, because the landlords of those parents expect them so to do. We could point to at least one large property in the county of Armagh, every Roman Catholic tenant on which had to make his children go to the Church school, under penalty of being refused turf-banks and other privileges; and it is only a short time since we saw in one of our contemporaries that a certain landlord in the county of Monaghan was endeavoring to compel his tenants to have their children educated at the Church Education Society's school. By these and similar improper means it is that the society is enabled to boast of the attendance of Roman Catholics. These remarks we should have thought it unnecessary to make on an exploded confederation, but that it may be useful to put the Times right on what our contemporary naturally regards as the only point in the report, and which is no point at all."

The Dublin Protestant Association have been in the habit of making themselves needlessly offensive, both to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the Catholic body, by addressing His Lordship periodically upon various subjects in which denunciations of the Catholic Church were interlarded with lamentations over the apathy of the "Protestant" authorities. The last document of this nature has been more than usually offensive, and has drawn forth the following rebuke from His Excellency. The Times says:—"It has been given by Lord Carlisle in such clear and intelligible terms, that henceforth all the parties concerned will understand the nature of the relationship which subsists between the Dublin Protestant Association and the Queen's Government in Ireland.— Here is the Vice-regal reply:—

"Dublin Castle, April 17. "Sir—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and its enclosure, and I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint you, for the information of those gentlemen who framed the memorial which accompanied your communication, that heretofore, while His Excellency has never recognised their assumption of the title of the Dublin Protestant Association, still, out of deference to the personal respectability of the gentlemen who compose that self-constituted body, he has always bestowed such attention upon their representations as they appeared to him to call for. So in the present instance His Excellency will not fail to keep under his fixed consideration the transactions which are the immediate subject of complaint."

"His Excellency now, however, feels further bound to state that, for the first time within his recollection, he has in the office which he holds under Her Majesty, in common with his predecessors and official colleagues, been exposed to remarks of a highly disrespectful and disparaging character from an association of persons in no way authorised to address him in any collective capacity, he must henceforth decline to receive any further addresses or communications from the body styling itself the Dublin Protestant Association.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant, "THOMAS A. LARCOM. "W. R. Furlong, Esq., 83, Middle Albany-street."

GREAT BRITAIN.

The last of the children of George III. has departed this life. Her Royal Highness Mary Duchess of Gloucester, expired on the morning of the 30th ult., at the age of 81. She was born on the 25th of April, 1776, and consequently had long passed the ordinary limit of human life.

Parliament met on Thursday, only for the election of a Speaker, and as Mr. Evelyn Denison's election was unopposed, the proceedings were little more than formal. Mr. Disraeli did not attend, and Mr. Walpole, the expected Opposition candidate, gave his adhesion to Lord Palmerston's nominee. The Ministerial papers boast of the enthusiastic reception of Lord Palmerston, while the other side declare "that the effort at a cheer was so feeble that it became a failure." This, we suppose, will be a pretty tolerable synopsis of the doings of the Session, which is to commence on Thursday next by the delivery of the Queen's Speech and the first party contest, as well as of its first day. There is no serious expectation of public business. Notices of what is to be done in 1858 together with routine business and election committees, will pretty well occupy the new House of Commons till the season at which the attraction of the Moors becomes too strong for the claims of the Palace of Westminster.—Weekly Register.

Government have agreed to propose to Parliament a vote for the North-West American Exploring Expedition, which, it is expected, will proceed in about a fortnight, under Mr. Palliser, to its starting point to the west of Lake Superior. The expedition will be accompanied by Dr. Hector, as naturalist and surgeon, and by a gentleman specially as a botanist, and Lieut. Blakiston, R.A., will be appointed to take magnetical observations.

IT IS NOT IMPROBABLE that Lord Palmerston may attempt a limited reform bill in order to disarm rivalry, embracing an extension of the suffrage to all learned professions; commissioned officers in the army and navy; school-masters, and others of a certain amount of educational training.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER AND THE PROTESTANT JURY.—We believe that among men learned in the law there is but one opinion as to the badness of the verdict of the Gloucestershire jury; and we know that among hundreds of public men, who had previously taken little interest in the petty persecutions of the Cardinal, the promulgation of the details of this trial has excited a sort of determination no longer to countenance the perpetration of such mean and contemptible annoyances. No Archbishop, Bishop, or other ecclesiastic of any denomination in England has done so much for the general advancement of popular education in England as Cardinal Wiseman. His lectures on the connection between "Science and Revealed Religion" have done more to discountenance the fashionable infidelity which prevailed a few years ago among scoundrels in science and philosophy, than any treatise with which we are acquainted: while the facility with which His Eminence has consented to lecture for sundry institutions has had the effect of imparting the prestige of exalted rank to that mode of public teaching.—Hall Advertiser.

The congregation of the Rev. W. W. Stockdale, Rector of Wicliffe, in Kent, were somewhat startled a few weeks ago by his coming to a pause in the morning service, and telling them he had now something to say of himself. He then proceeded to publish his own bans of marriage.